

# **2010 DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement Deer Gun Season Report**

Chief Conservation Warden Randy Stark

December 7, 2010

## **REQUIEM FOR A WARDEN KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:**

On November 11, 2010 at 10:35 PM, Pennsylvania Wildlife Conservation Officer David L. Grove, while making a stop of vehicle suspected of deer shining, was tragically shot and killed by a subject in the vehicle who was a convicted felon.

I had the honor of attending the funeral ceremony for Wildlife Conservation Officer Grove in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania on behalf of the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs, Wisconsin DNR, and the Wisconsin Warden Service. It ranks among the most moving events I've experienced in my 28 years in law enforcement.

There were upwards of 1,000 law enforcement officers from across the country in attendance. The support from the federal, state, and local law enforcement community and within conservation law enforcement community left people speechless. The sight so many officers paying respect literally took people's breath away when they saw it.

An equal number of citizens attended the funeral. Even more impressive was the support from the local community. There were thousands of people of all ages who stepped away from their life activities and lined the streets of Waynesboro for the funeral procession. All somber, many tear-eyed and waving flags or holding their hand over their hearts as the procession went by them. Most everyone expressed verbally or through direct eye contact and a nodding head their appreciation for the work law enforcement officers do. The risk and personal sacrifice law enforcement officers assume in rendering public service penetrated the consciousness of everyone present. As the funeral procession made its way through town, it was clear a very appreciative community came in direct contact with the reality of the risks that accompany the work wardens perform across the country. Please keep David and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

The Wisconsin Warden Service is very appreciative of the support we receive from the public we serve. Without that support we could not get the job done or provide the equipment and training that enables our people to do the job safely and go home to their families at the end of the day.

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Wardens contact thousands of hunters over the course of the nine day season. The vast majority of hunters are law abiding people enjoying the outdoors with their family and friends. Hunters aid our efforts to protect our resources from poachers and people who endanger public safety. Wardens recognize that these people may only represent a very small percentage of those in the field, but that these few can adversely impact public safety, our wildlife, and the image of all hunters. The assistance provided by the public in helping us apprehend violators who endanger public safety or steal opportunity from law abiding hunters is greatly appreciated. The public is the key to our success in protecting the people and natural resources in Wisconsin on behalf of future generations.

## **A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN WISCONSIN HUNTING HISTORY**

I would like to thank everyone for helping to make the 2010 deer season a safe one – the first season since 1974 with NO FATAL HUNTING INCIDENTS!! This is directly attributable to our dedicated cadre of

volunteer hunter education instructors, our safety conscious hunting community in Wisconsin, and our staff who are dedicated to continually enhancing hunter safety in Wisconsin. CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!! However, 12 people were injured this past season and our hopes for speedy recoveries are with those people and their families.

## **WEATHER**

Near perfect weather conditions prevailed for deer hunting throughout the state and during most of the week. Fog in the southern part of the state hampered visibility on the first Sunday of the season, but generally temperatures were cool and dry, allowing those who were dressed warmly to remain in the field without having to rush a deer into the processor. The snow cover, which was present in the some northern counties, would have been welcome statewide. Corn crop harvest was almost 100% which made deer – and the hunters – more visible.

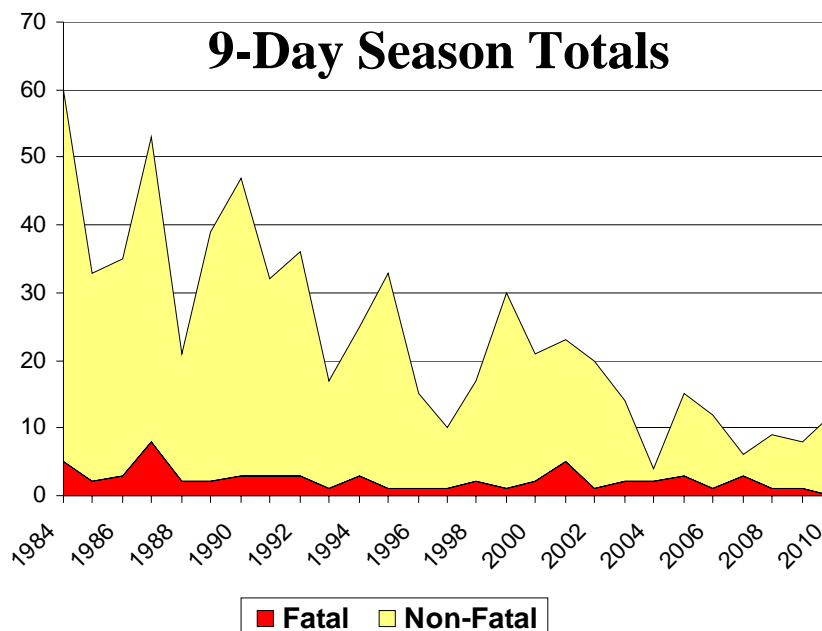
## **GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

Wardens reported that many hunters in “buck only” units expressed satisfaction with no harvesting of antlerless deer.

Wardens continue to see increasing hunting pressure on public lands likely as a result of fragmentation of large blocks of previously-undeveloped land, underscoring the importance of having public land available for hunting, as well as private land access through the Managed Forest Lands Program. Wisconsin is fortunate to have accessible public and private lands made possible through the Stewardship Program and the MFL Program.

## **HUNTING RELATED SHOOTING INCIDENTS**

History was made for the 2010 Nine-Day Gun Deer Season! **It was only the second time in recorded history of gun deer hunting that the season ended with no fatal injuries; 1974 was the only other year.** Our goal is to eliminate all injury and loss of life while hunting. We conduct thorough investigations to learn what happened in these incidents so we can work to prevent such incidents in the future. By knowing who did what, when, where and how we are able to positively affect hunter behavior via hunter education curriculum, media outreach efforts and training of our volunteers and Department staff.





## **PASSING ON THE TRADITION THROUGH THE MENTORED HUNTING PROGRAM**

Wisconsin has a hunting heritage like no other, and it's important to pass on the tradition of hunting to the next generation. Deer season presents an opportunity for seasoned hunters to pass on the rich history and tradition to the next generation of hunters.

The Mentored Hunting Law that allows a person as young as 10 years old to hunt prior to completion of a hunter education course, continues to bring future hunters into the woods. Wardens reported contacting an increased number of mentored hunters and their experienced partners afield this deer season.

Once again this year, there were no hunting incidents involving mentored hunters.

The number of mentored hunting license sold to 10 and 11 year olds was up 12.5 % as compared to 2009.

### **Number of 10-11 year old Mentored Hunting deer gun licenses sold in 2009 and 2010**

<b>2009</b>	<b>9907</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>11331</b>

See the addendum for some wonderful mentored hunting stories.

## **CONVICTED FELONS AND INTOXICATED INDIVIDUALS**

One of the goals of the warden service is to create a safe and enjoyable outdoor recreational environment for everyone. To this end, wardens have placed emphasis on removing known criminal offenders, intoxicated individuals and subjects using illegal drugs from the outdoor recreational environment in the interest of public safety.

There is no prohibition for a person with a felony conviction from purchasing a firearm hunting license in Wisconsin. However, it is illegal for felons to possess firearms and therefore participation in group deer hunting is illegal. During the 2010 deer gun season, the Hotline received 12 complaints of felons in possession of firearms. Through these complaints and patrol efforts, wardens arrested thirty seven (37) felons in possession of firearms in the field. This was the 8th most frequently encountered violation by wardens during the 2010 season.

Felons in possession of firearms during the gun hunt are frequently found to be in violation of other laws. As a group, they represent a larger proportion of serious violations compared to other violators and their behaviors represent a disproportionate risk to public safety, hunter safety and officer safety. This group has greater potential to erode the image of law abiding hunters in the eyes of the non-hunting public. During the 2010 deer gun season, in addition to being arrested for illegally possessing a firearm the following violations were detected: untagged deer, using full metal jacket ammunition, hunting without a license, reckless use of firearm, outstanding warrants, illegal baiting, fraudulent licenses, group hunting violations, illegal drug possession, carrying a concealed weapon, operating while intoxicated, obstructing a warden, loaded gun in a vehicle, uncased gun in a vehicle, road hunting and hunting during the closed season.

Wardens arrested five (5) subjects for going armed while intoxicated, and thirteen (13) subjects in possession of illegal drugs while hunting.

The morning after the last day of the deer gun season, Warden Dave Oginski Jr. of Wausaukee in Marinette County was notified of an armed bank robbery in Amberg, WI. Oginski and a Crivitz police officer arrested the armed bank robbery suspect on Highway 141 south of Wausaukee just 12 minutes after witnesses reported the subject robbed the bank. Oginski later recovered evidence that the suspect had used in the robbery. On the same day, Wardens Mike Kitt and Bob Goerlinger were called on to be part of the law enforcement teams that entered Marinette High School in response to a hostage situation.

#### **Felons in Possession of a Firearm Cases 2003-2010**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>

See addendum for details.

#### **HUNTER/USER CONFLICTS:**

Some conflict is inevitable when over 600,000 hunters and many other outdoor users hit the woods at the same time. Analyzing the sources of conflict can be instructive in terms of developing strategies to reduce conflicts and create a safe and enjoyable outdoor recreational environment for everyone.

While still present, the conflict experienced this year was less intense than in recent years. The common themes with conflicts this season included conflicts related to stand placement on public lands, property boundaries boundary disputes, disagreements over who actually shot a deer both hunters claim, ATV use, and safety concerns related to hunting near homes or subdivisions. There were some hunter conflicts that occurred from the multiple uses and hunting methods on state land. Examples include deer drives on public lands disturbing those in tree stands and pheasant and waterfowl hunters in conflict with deer hunters.

#### **HUNTER HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS**

<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>

The number of hunter harassment complaints fell from 15 in 2009 to 9 in 2010. The complaints received generally involved hunter/hunter or adjacent landowner/hunter harassment situations.

#### **SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS**

Being ready to respond to emergencies to enhance public safety is a major goal of the warden service. The local warden's knowledge of the area coupled with equipment furnished by the Department enhances efficiency and effectiveness during search and rescue efforts. The use of Global Positioning Units (GPS), computer mapping software, radios, cellular phones, Mobile Data Computers and ATV's were all deployed this deer season in search, rescue, recovery and emergency response efforts. Wardens responded to nine (9) requests for search and rescue from local municipalities and law enforcement agencies. These included assisting tornado victims in Walworth and Racine Counties, locating tree stand fall victims, lost hunters, locating a remote personal injury related vehicle accident, two non-hunting incident related death investigations involving hunters, and even removing a deer from a swimming pool.

See addendum for details.

## **GROUND BLINDS**

Commercial camouflage ground blinds/tents continue to become more popular throughout the state, both on the ground and on elevated platforms. Wardens observed a number of hunters using camouflage ground blinds on DNR land and found good compliance with the blaze orange marking rule. There is some confusion on the requirement not applying to all public areas (county, federally owned).

Although not required, wardens observed some hunters on private property also displayed blaze orange on their ground blinds

Warden are often questioned by hunters on the reasoning for only requiring blaze orange on ground blinds located on state lands, and not all lands when having a hunter completely camouflaged defeats the purpose of blaze orange clothing. Law enforcement recognizes the concerns, but the DNR does not currently have the authority to regulate the color of blinds used on private lands, however the agency does have authority to do so on lands that the DNR owns, manages or controls.

## **BUILDINGS SHOT**

Increasing rural residential development means more buildings on the landscape. Wardens reported a total of thirteen (13) homes and buildings struck by bullets or slugs during the 2010 deer gun season. No injuries resulted. See addendum for details.

These types of incidents are reported to the local law enforcement agencies who often request assistance from the local Conservation Warden. Wardens assisted with 20 investigations in which the responsible party was determined in 11 cases. Of the 20 incidents, the firearms included 8 shotguns, 5 rifles and 7 undetermined.

### **Reported Incidents of Buildings Shot 2006-2010**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>

## **ARRESTS, SEIZURES and CALLS FOR SERVICE**

### **Summary of Total Violations and Seizures by Year**

<b>Summary by Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Total Number of Violations</b>	<b>1284</b>	<b>1404</b>	<b>1400</b>	<b>1518</b>	<b>1394</b>	<b>1280</b>
<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>1241</b>	<b>1391</b>	<b>1367</b>	<b>1514</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>1235</b>
<b>Total Number of Seizures</b>						
<b>Illegal Deer</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Illegal Bear</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Other seizures</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Car Killed Deer</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>

### Top Ten Violations Encountered by Wardens

2010 Rank	Violation	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	% Change
1	Illegal use of bait - Firearms	216	334	308	331	254	-35%
2	Trans. loaded gun in vehicle	109	88	129	120	106	24%
3	Trans. uncased gun in vehicle	79	80	97	80	88	-1%
4	Group deer hunt violation	73	35	10	30	14	109%
5	Hunt w/in 50' of paved road center	53	35	53	62	44	51%
6	Fail to validate tag	50	37	72	65	48	35%
7	Hunt from an illegal elevated device	43	51	48	30	22	-16%
8	Felon in possession of firearm	37	29	14	3		27%
9	Feeding wild animals violations	32	42	54	82	45	-24%
10	Hunt without a license	30	35	17	27	32	-14%

- There was an 8.5% decline in the total number of arrests from 2009 to 2010 (down from 1404 arrests to 1284 arrests.)
- Although the top violation in 2010 is illegal baiting – the number of arrests for illegal baiting (216) represents a 35% decline from 2009.
- Group deer hunting violations more than doubled from 2009 to 2010 and ranked the 4th highest type of violation encountered by wardens.
- Violations associated with road hunting increased. Hunting within 50 feet from roads increased by 51%, and loaded firearms in vehicles increased by 24%.
- Shining wild animals while possessing a firearm jumped 122% over arrest numbers for 2009 (it was the 15th most common violation encountered (20 cases in 2010 versus 9 in 2009).
- The total number of illegal deer seized increased by 44% over 2009 numbers.
- Felons in possession of firearms was the 8th most common violation encountered; 37 cases is the highest in 5 years. See addendum for details

### Calls to DNR Hotline during the 2008- 2010 Nine Day Seasons

Type of call	2008	2009	2010
Found dead deer or other carcass	42	84	90
Baiting and feeding	27	48	24
Heard shots; believes poaching	17	23	13
Hunt within 50 feet of roadway center	37	20	30
Shoot from a vehicle	12	21	16
Hunt before or after hours	38	31	31
Possession of untagged deer	16	5	2
Possession of illegal deer	11	15	19
Miscellaneous	187	229	245
Total Hotlines	387	476	470
Calls to the Hotline not DNR violations or other calls for service/information	148	157	168
Total calls	535	633	638

Public use of the DNR Violation Hotline continues to be strong. The total number of calls handled by Hotline dispatchers during the November 2010 9-day gun deer season was 638, slightly more than the 633 calls received in 2009. This is the first deer season tips could be texted into the hotline. We received 20 texts (3% of Hotline contacts) via the TIP 411 feature, 12 of which pertained to violations and were forwarded to Conservation Wardens for investigation. Based on user technology trends we expect this hotline feature to become more popular in the future.

Notable changes from 2009 include significant decreases in baiting and feeding complaints from 48 to 24; hunter harassment from 15 to 8; "heard shots-believes poaching" from 23 to 13. Interestingly, complaints of hunters shooting from a vehicle dropped from 21 to 16 while "hunting within prohibited distance of the center of a roadway" complaints increased from 20 to 30. The Hotline also received 12 calls regarding felons in possession of firearms compared to 11 in 2009.

### **ILLEGAL BAITING AND FEEDING OF DEER**

Across the state, baiting and feeding complaints and arrests were down significantly. Hotline complaints regarding illegal baiting and feeding were down 50%, and arrests for illegal baiting were down 35%, and arrests for illegal feeding were down 24%.

The volume of material in bait piles has also dropped noticeably. Nearly all wardens reported that extremely large bait piles are very few and far between now. While some wardens continue to report considerable illegal baiting in some local areas, on a statewide basis, most wardens reported finding noticeably fewer illegal bait piles on the landscape. Hunters continue to be very supportive of apprehending those who are illegally baiting.

Wardens report that based conversations on with hunters across the state, it appears an increasing number of hunters are frustrated with baiting and feeding and recognize the impacts it has on deer movement and distribution on the landscape.

Wardens report the decrease in illegal baiting is believed attributable to a combination of the following factors:

- Increased compliance from several years of a strong enforcement emphasis on illegal baiting.
- Some hunters opted to grow food plots as compared to a pile of bait that needed to be continually restocked.
- While many hunters contacted indicated they bait simply because "their neighbors do," an increasing number of hunters that wardens come in contact are frustrated with baiting and some have voluntarily decided to stop placing food for deer in an effort to re-establish natural deer movement patterns.

Wardens report the following observations and trends in baiting enforcement:

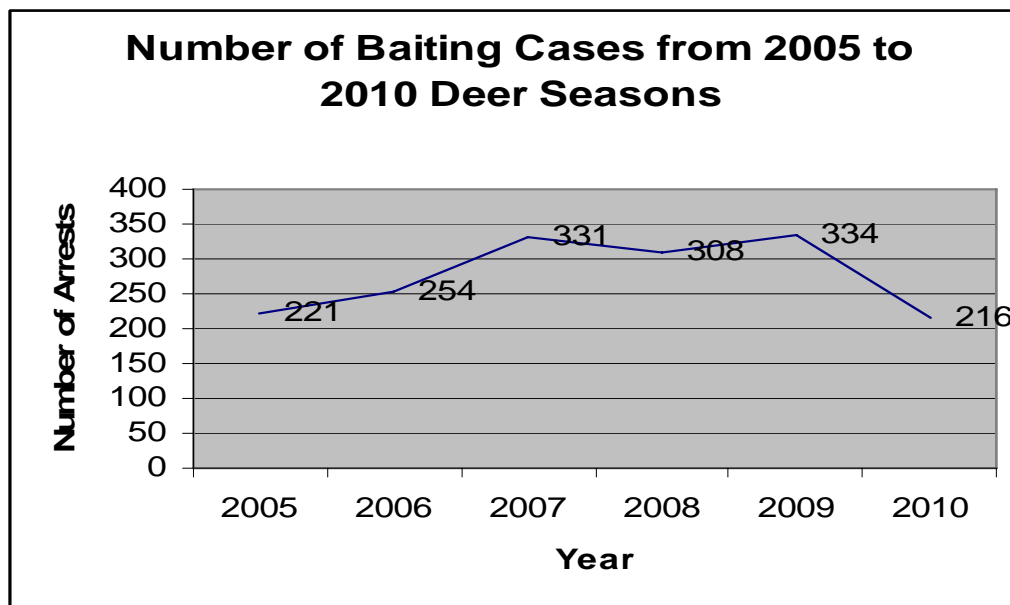
- A greater proportion of those determined to illegally bait are broadcasting bait over larger areas in an effort to make it less detectable and measurable.
- Some hunters are baiting heavily the week prior to the season to attract deer to a general area and then reducing the bait to legal volume once the season opens.



## Arrests for illegal baiting and feeding deer

**2010 Deer Gun Season Baiting and Feeding Cases by Region**

Region	Baiting Cases	Feeding Cases
Northern	79	15
West Central	72	9
Northeast	38	3
South Central	22	4
Southeast	5	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>32</b>



## WOLF SHOOTINGS

During a wolf flight just prior to the deer season, one radio-collared wolf was found apparently shot in Jackson County.

As of the drafting of this report, three (3) illegally killed wolves were detected in Jackson and Rusk Counties during the 2010 Firearm Deer Season. Two of the three wolves were not radio collared.

Out of 63 radio collared wolves detected via telemetry equipment during the 2010 deer season, one was found dead, also in Jackson County. No wolves were found dead in northern Wisconsin, which included 54 radio collared wolves on the air. However, on flights that occurred 11/29/10, two wolves were missing. Both of these were animals displaying dispersal behavior, and they may have just moved out of range or were lost.

WI-2010-068	11/18/2010 W683*	A	M Jackson	WI	Illegally killed - shot
WI-2010-069	11/23/2010 W771*	A	F Jackson	WI	Illegally killed - shot
WI-2010-070	11/22/2010	A	F Jackson	WI	Unknown
WI-2010-071	11/27/2010	Y	M Rusk	WI	Illegally killed - shot

## **CUSTOMER SERVICE AND TAGGING SYSTEM**

DNR Service Centers are very busy the week prior to deer season. Customer Service staff did a great job handling the high volume of service delivery. Some wardens in each region reported reduced counter service hours at the Service Centers was a source of frustration to some hunters who like to get detailed information that they feel only comes with a personal contact.

Some improvement is necessary in the distribution of tags for recent hunter education graduates. They are currently only available at DNR Service Centers, and distribution of those tags was mentioned as a significant problem by wardens in each region of the state. Some proposed a system of providing them to students through a phone process, or giving them to students at graduation. There is a considerable distance that some students have to travel to a DNR Service Center so we need to come up with an easier way to put a tag in the graduate's hand. An informational handout that goes to every student on how to obtain their tag would help with questions.

Some wardens in the Northern Region said they received many calls about their tagging options in the Herd Control units.

## **CWD SEASONS**

The difference in registration deadlines in the CWD Zone is confusing for some hunters who are unaware that the shorter deadline for registration exists, i.e., deer in CWD zone must be registered the day after kill and gun hunters outside CWD zone have until the day after the season to register their deer.

There were no hunting related shooting incidents in any of the prior "shotgun" areas in the CWD zone where rifles are now allowed, or in any of prior "shotgun" areas that now allow rifles in Dunn, Shawano, or Kewaunee Counties.

Some hunters in CWD Zones continue to be frustrated by Earn a Buck. The frustration generally is expressed in a story where they or someone they knew had to pass on a nice buck because they had not yet earned a buck, or concern about lack of deer and continued emphasis on antlerless harvest.

Transporting deer out of the CWD zone to adjoining counties makes enforcement difficult if it involves a deer that needs special authorization. A suggestion to change the rules so that registration takes place before the deer is transported out of the zone.

Wardens in Bayfield County were asked about the false positive CWD on a deer farm. There were sightings of ear tagged deer in the area near the deer farm. Hunters and landowners were appreciative of efforts of DATCP and DNR to keep the public informed until the final results were known.

End - see addendum below.

## **ADDENDUM**

### **MENTORED HUNTING AND OTHER POSITIVE STORIES**

These are a few of those experiences reported by our wardens.

Warden Rick DeWitte (Cassville) talked with several young hunters and their mentors who were taking advantage of the mentoring law with 10 and 11 year old youngsters afield. There were also several grandparents who were mentoring their grandson or granddaughter. One grandfather stated that it was nice to take his granddaughter out hunting, noting that the one firearm rule did not bother him as he had harvested plenty of deer over the years and the focus was on his granddaughter. She had seen several deer, and had not yet taken a shot at a deer in range.

Warden Jeff King (Darlington) received information from a hunter reporting he had found a tagged deer in the woods that had been there several days. This occurred on a large tract of private land where agricultural damage hunting was taking place by a number of unrelated groups. The hunter then started asking questions of other hunters in the area and learned there may be another deer down, and abandoned. This hunter met up with a father and daughter hunting on the property who eventually found the second abandoned deer. In addition, they located two separate bait piles under tree stands. The hunter who originally called in the complaint, then called a group of friends and, within minutes, four more deer hunters were on scene asking King “what do you need us to do?” This group of seven hunters gave up their afternoon, the last afternoon of the deer season during the Packer game, to help out. The group helped King remove deer stands and the abandoned deer from the woods. King said that he can not thank this group enough for their dedication to the sport and the ethics of the tradition. One of the hunters said, “this is what we try to prevent, as it makes us all look bad.” Ultimately, the responsible party showed up and was cited for numerous violations.

Warden David Allen (Green Bay) was contacted by the Hotline in reference to a hunter who had shot two does and only had one antlerless tag and wished to turn himself in. Allen found the hunter had shot at a doe and it just ran off and he didn’t think he had hit it. A short time later another doe came out at the same location and the hunter again shot and knocked the doe down. When the hunter went to tag the doe, he found a blood trail that lead to the first doe. Although, this is a mistake by the hunter, Allen believes that this incident shows there are still true sportsmen out there as this hunter could have easily purchased a \$2 antlerless tag and then he would have been legal. The sportsman knew he was going to be in trouble and still was willing to accept the consequences. Allen seized the doe for the Hunt for the Hungry program and commended the sportsman for his honesty and integrity.

Warden Chris Kratcha (Door County) received a report from Potawatomi State Park of a newly immigrated, non-resident, middle-aged hunter that shot and wounded a deer while hunting alone in the park. The deer ran wounded to a teen-age hunter who also shot and killed the deer. Both the man and the teenager arrived at the dead deer at about the same time. The man was so excited about shooting his first deer, he was jumping up and down. The teenager saw how proud the new hunter was and graciously let the man have the deer.

Warden Jason Higgins (Oshkosh) checked a father and daughter hunting on public property. This was the fourth year the daughter has hunted and she harvested two deer opening weekend including a 3-point buck. The young lady was very happy she had finally shot a deer especially her first buck. Both deer were harvested from different public hunting grounds. During the conversation, Higgins observed the daughter displayed very safe gun handling skills. The hunter education program and her father should be proud.

Warden Kyle Kosin (Fond du Lac) talked with an individual who had watched a very large trophy buck come out into a food plot two days in a row. When asked about shooting it, the hunter laughed and said he had shot enough big deer in his life and he was waiting for the chance to bring his daughter out and mentor her at the end of the week in hopes she would have an opportunity at the deer.

Warden Nate Ackerman (Green Lake) saw many young hunters in the woods with parents this year. Ackerman asked all youth hunters who had taken hunters safety if they remembered “TABK” - the Four Rules of Firearm Safety. All but one was able to recite what it stood for. All of the youth hunters who had taken hunters safety at the Berlin Conservation Club were able to recite TABK.

Walworth County Warden Jason Roberts contacted one family group of hunters that represented three generations of hunters in the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The family had a 15 year old son with his father and grandfather hunting an 80 acre parcel of managed forest land. The father had shot a deer earlier in the week and the young hunter had an exciting story of the hunt and his first attempt at field dressing of a deer. The father told Roberts that it was definitely a learning experience.

Warden Matthew Groppi contacted a family hunting together at the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The father and son were hunting and the mother and daughter were assisting with their deer drive. The mother and daughter said even though they weren’t hunting they enjoyed being outdoors and they enjoyed doing things as family.

Warden Lance Burns (Gordon) and Deputy Warden Jim Madden came across a father and young son who were very excited and related the story of their success. The father shot a 10 point buck. As he was showing his son how to field dress the deer, an eight point buck showed up and was looking at them. The son had to move 15 feet to get his rifle and he was able to harvest the buck. The father and son team had been dragging the deer for hours and the father said his legs were like rubber. Burns assisted the father with dragging out the 10 point buck.

On the Sunday of opening weekend, Warden Rick Peters (Merrill) contacted a party who was coming out of the woods a few minutes before the close of hunting hours. The man said that he was a little cold because he had been out most of the day and had decided to come in early. The man mentioned that he hadn’t seen any deer, but added that was the nature of hunting. Peters checked the man’s deer hunting license and noted that the hunter was 91 years old.

Wardens Jeremy Peery (Ladysmith) and Kirk Konichuk (Recruit Warden) contacted a first time hunter who was hunting with her stepfather on Rusk County Forest property. She utilized her hunter education graduate free antlerless tag in DMU 18 to harvest her first deer, a yearling doe.

Warden Jason Bayer contacted several (approx. 8) paired hunters that were adults mentoring 10 or 11 year old hunters. One of the paired adult and youth mentored hunters who had been following the regulations harvested a buck, which was the youth’s first deer.

Warden Andy Dryja (Langlade) and Warden Supervisor Casey Krueger (Tomahawk) contacted a father and son that had just harvested a buck on public land. Wardens congratulated the pair and comment on the size of the buck. The father said “Is it a big one?” Dryja commented that the buck would most likely make the Wisconsin record books. The father and son screamed and gave each other a “high-five.” It was the first buck the 54 year old hunter had ever harvested.

Warden Jill Schartner (Drummond) received a call from a hunter who shot and harvested a spike buck. He stated that he shot the deer at a distance of 200 yards +, stating that in his scope the spikes appeared to be a lot longer. He had a ruler with him and, when calling Schartner, he stated that it did not matter how he measured the spikes, the longest was only 2 ¼ inches long, and he was in a no antlerless zone. When Schartner met with the hunter, the college student said that he knew this mistake could really hurt his chances of his goal of someday being a warden, but it's what he had to do to be able to face himself in the morning. The deer was seized and the hunter was warned for shooting an antlerless deer, but also thanked by Schartner for doing the right thing by calling in to report his mistake.

Wardens Cody Adams (Chippewa Falls), Scott Bowe (Cornell), and Kyle Dilley (Recruit Warden), met up with local property owners who are from Germany and come to Wisconsin to deer hunt. The wardens have made numerous cases using the deer decoy on their property. The hunters seemed very impressed with the wardens' efforts on trying to catch people violating and hunting from the road. One of the hunters is a journalist in Germany and plans to write an article for a German hunting magazine on Wisconsin Conservation Wardens and their efforts on catching poachers. The hunters explained to the wardens how very few people hunt in Germany because it is difficult to find a piece of property to hunt on in their country. The wardens spent some time with the men at their hunting camp and talked about the hunting culture of their country.

Wardens Kyle Dilley (Recruit Warden) and Scott Bowe (Cornell) contacted one hunter who was a college student attending UW-Eau Claire. The man had just taken up hunting and was very excited to bag his first deer opening morning, a small doe!

Warden Jim Cleven (Colfax) made contact with a youth, who participated in the mentored hunt. The 10 year old harvested his first deer, and was very excited and proud. Cleven asked the young hunter if he liked deer hunting. He answered yes and stated he didn't think he would sleep, in anticipation of the next morning hunt.

Wardens Robin Barnhardt (Osseo) and Shaun Deeney (Recruit Warden) contacted a hunter who had taken his teenage daughter and 8 year old son deer hunting with him. The boy was very excited to be with his dad, and he also commented that he couldn't wait until he was 10 to participate in the mentored hunting program. While the family had not gotten a deer, they still commented on how much they enjoyed spending Thanksgiving together outdoors.

Warden Barry Meister (Stevens Point) contacted two young hunters who had just completed a hunter education course. They had each harvested an antlerless deer and tagged their deer with their respective first time Hunter Safety Graduate free antlerless deer tags. The youth hunters were elated as were their fathers.

Wardens Barry Fetting (Marshfield) and Tom Dickson (Recruit Warden) conducted a routine check of licenses and a deer. The deer was found to be harvested by a very happy girl who was ten years old. The youth was participating in the mentored program hunting with her dad. It was the youth's first deer.

## **SEARCH AND RESCUE SITUATIONS**

Warden Pat Novesky (Three Lakes) reports that while on patrol the Friday night before deer season he was travelling a forest road in a remote area and observed a vehicle up against a tree with severe damage. Novesky determined that the operator was unresponsive and bleeding from the head. Novesky contacted EMS to treat the driver who was eventually transported from the scene by helicopter.

Wardens Dryja (Langlade) and Warden Dahlquist (Crandon) assisted the Forest County Sheriff in searching for a lost hunter opening night of deer season. Apparently the hunter got turned around in the woods after dark and could not find his way out. The subject was found unharmed a few hours after dark in the Wabeno area.

Warden James Horne (Shawano) reported a lost hunter. The hunter was trailing a deer and became disoriented. He crawled up a tree and called a hunting partner who was half-way back home. The partner called 911. The lost hunter had turned off his cell phone, however, so law enforcement responded to guide the subject out of the woods.

On Monday, the day after opening weekend of the gun deer season, a tornado ripped through Walworth and Racine Counties. Wardens Randy Dunkel, Jason Roberts, Michael Hirschboeck, Juan Gomez, Doug Zeihen, Supervisor Rick Reed and Deputy Warden Katzenberg responded. The responding wardens had to work in a very tense and highly stressful situation. The wardens performed their duties with professionalism and should be proud of the service they provided in responding to their community at a time of need.

Warden Mike Clutter responded to a report of a man who had fallen from his tree stand and could not move. Upon arriving at the scene, Clutter joined in the search and local rescue personnel quickly located the hunter. The man was transported to a West Bend hospital, then Froedert Hospital in Milwaukee with 7 fractured vertebra, 4 broken ribs, and a broken pelvis from the fall. The hunter was not wearing a harness and fell approximately 20 feet.

Warden Supervisor Ron Cork (Tomah) and Warden Shaun Deeney (Recruit Warden) responded to the scene of a hunter who apparently died from a sudden cardiac arrest while attempting to drag a deer from the field. The wardens allowed a friend of the family to tag the buck and registered it in the field.

Warden Wayne Flak (Menomonie) responded to a report of a hunter that had fallen out of a tree stand. When Flak and Deputy Pace arrived, they located the victim who had a broken back, four broken limbs and a collapsed lung. Flak assisted EMS personnel and the victim was airlifted out.

On opening day, Wardens Ryan Ellifson, Catherina Nooyen, Dave Walz and Warden Supervisor Plautz assisted the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department with a death investigation involving a hunter who was found deceased by members of his family. The Jefferson County Coroner determined the hunter died of natural causes; it was not a shooting related incident.

Warden Paul Nadolski (Poynette) responded to a rural subdivision where a deer had gotten into a swimming pool. Due to the depth of water, the straight sides of the pool, and the plastic cover that the deer kept breaking through, the deer was unable to jump out. Nadolski placed a ramp from his truck inside the pool and with good footing, the doe escaped.

## **EXAMPLES OF CASES INVOLVING FELONS HUNTING**

Warden Lance Burns (Gordon) and Deputy Jim Madden (Douglas County) investigated information from Deputy Steve Olson (Douglas County) about a felon that was hunting deer. The subject was contacted hunting from a ground blind with a rifle and when asked why he was hunting with a firearm, he said his felony occurred 15 years ago and was told that law enforcement did not check back that far.

Warden Supervisor David Holmes (Poynette) and Warden Dave Horzewski (Reedsburg) were in the Dutch Hollow Lake area when Holmes observed a hunter in the woods field dressing an untagged deer.

Wardens learned that the hunter was a convicted felon. He was arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm. It was also determined that the hunter was in possession and hunting with illegal full-metal jacketed ammunition while hunting deer.

Warden Paul Nell (Horicon) worked with the Dodge County Sheriff's department on a hunter who was a convicted felon and had gun deer hunted in years past. Nell determined that the felon had taken three deer illegally in both the gun and archery deer season. A shotgun, bow and two buck heads were seized from the residence. Several citations and a felon in possession of a firearm charge were referred.

Wardens David Youngquist and Steve Sanidas checked a group of four hunters on public land in Iowa County and one turned out to have a felony conviction. He said that he has been gun deer hunting for twenty years and has shot a number of deer over the years and has been buying licenses for years. He was transported to the Iowa County jail.

Warden Joe Frost (Dodgeville) and Recreational Safety Warden Jon King (Madison) were contacting a member of the group who was a convicted felon, and while making this contact, a different subject used his rifle scope to look at the wardens. He was arrested for reckless use of a firearm. Two firearms and the deer were seized from the felon and criminal charges are pending.

Warden Jeff King (Darlington) responded to a complaint of a tagged deer left in the woods for 3 days. King ended up seizing two tagged deer that had been left in the woods for 2-3 days in violation of the registration requirements in the CWD zone. In addition, King seized material from two bait piles and two deer hunting stands during this investigation. The suspect had a warrant out for his arrest for possession of an illegal deer in Buffalo County. In addition, the suspect is a convicted felon and was in possession of two rifles and admitted to deer hunting with a firearm. The suspect was turned over to Lafayette County and cited for the DNR violations.

Warden Jim Jung (Rhineland) and Warden Supervisor Tom Wrasse (Woodruff) contacted a hunter in a camp previously scouted for cabin shooting. The hunter had been buying resident licenses for years although he was a resident of South Carolina. The hunter, who was born in 1974, had not completed a hunter safety class until 2008. A criminal history check then revealed the hunter to be a convicted felon and was subsequently arrested and booked into the Oneida County jail. The hunter had shot and registered a buck in 2009 in Oneida County as well. The hunter was also issued DNR citations for obtaining resident licenses that he was not entitled to.

Warden Ron Nerva (Tomahawk) and Warden Supervisor Casey Krueger (Tomahawk) made contact with two hunters who were road hunting. Driver was found to be in possession of marijuana drug paraphernalia, and had a concealed handgun in a hand warmer on his waist. Subject was also a felon. The driver was arrested for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia, felon in possession of a firearm, concealed weapon, uncased firearm, and driving while under the influence of marijuana. The passenger was also arrested for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

Wardens Jeremy Peery (Ladysmith), Russ Fell (Barron), and Kirk Konichuk (Warden Recruit) were using a deer decoy on Rusk County Forest property. A vehicle stopped and the passenger shot at the decoy out of the vehicle's passenger side window with a lever-action rifle. Contact was made and another bolt-action high powered rifle was uncased in the vehicle. The subjects stated the lever-action was for short range shooting and the bolt-action was for long range shooting. A records check of the subjects was completed and it was learned that the passenger, who possessed the lever-action rifle and shot at the decoy, was a convicted felon from Nevada. The subject was arrested, and a search of the subject revealed

marijuana and paraphenalia. The subject was taken to the Rusk County Jail for charges of a felon in possession of a firearm and drugs. Several other citations were issued to both subjects.

Warden Jason Bayer (Phillips) and Deputy Warden Bryan Vergin contacted two hunters, one of the subjects was using a different hunter's gun deer back tag and did not have a deer hunting license and had been hunting deer without a license. Bayer further determined the subject was a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. While wardens were speaking with the arrested subject's son, a third subject walked out of the woods in blaze orange carrying a rifle without a back tag displayed. The third subject was determined to also be hunting deer without a gun deer license and initially provided his brother's identification information, including signing his brother's name to a written statement provided to wardens. Wardens then determined the subject lied about his identity because he was also a convicted felon and placed him under arrest for felon in possession of firearm, hunting deer without license and obstructing a warden. Both felons had also been deer hunting over illegal deer baits in excess of 2 gallons on the property and also received citations for the deer baiting violations.

Warden Jesse Ashton (Luck) and Deputy Warden Tamara Larson contacted a subject at his residence in Lewis who was a convicted felon. The subject was wearing blaze orange and in the process of butchering deer. It was found that that felon had shot three deer with a rifle and had illegally tagged several other deer in past years for other people. The subject was found to be in possession of a 30-06 rifle. Ashton located a skinned out untagged fawn hidden behind a chest freezer in the shed. The subject was arrested and taken to jail. Criminal charges for felon in possession of a firearm and possession of untagged deer are pending as well as several other citations for other deer violations.

Warden Russ Fell (Rice Lake) and Warden Phil Dorn (Cumberland) entered a remote area of Barron County on foot to check hunters based on information of convicted felons in possession of firearms. The wardens eventually encountered three felons who possessed firearms (two without licenses, one intoxicated with a firearm). In addition, the wardens located an untagged deer on an ATV.

Warden Russ Fell (Rice Lake) contacted a hunter on a piece of managed forest land based on an ongoing investigation of a possible felon hunting on the property. Fell contacted a hunter (felon) in a ground blind while hunting deer with a loaded rifle. The hunter was arrested for possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, and driving after revocation as habitual traffic offender. The hunter had been smoking marijuana during the hunt. A criminal history revealed that this hunter was arrested 2 other times in Wisconsin for felon in possession of a firearm and multiple convictions of possession of illegal drugs. The subject was arrested and transported to Barron County Jail.

Warden Jon Hagen (Spooner) received a complaint after the 2009 gun deer season that a subject had kicked two hunters off of open managed forest law property. While looking into the complaint in 2010, Hagen collaborated with Minnesota officers to reveal that the non-resident suspect was actually a felon and had intentionally misspelled his name on a Wisconsin gun deer license to avoid detection. The subject had registered multiple deer in Wisconsin over the last several years. Hagen received a photo from Minnesota to identify the suspect. Hagen and Warden Dave Swanson (Minong) then entered the MFL property and apprehended the suspect as he was preparing to field dress an 8-point buck. The wardens found that he had also placed 70 lbs. of corn at his deer stand just prior to opening morning. The subject was arrested for felon in possession of a firearm and illegal bait. The firearm and the 8-point buck were seized.

Wardens Sue Miller (Hayward) and Todd Schaller (Madison) apprehended a felon that had been using a fictitious name and social security number to purchase hunting licenses for well over 10 years. While dealing with the felon, they received a complaint of an untagged deer left just off of a roadway. Schaller



was able to track down the hunter who had shot it off the road and did not have an antlerless tag for this deer. This hunter also had a companion that turned out to be a Minnesota resident purchasing Wisconsin resident licenses.

Warden John Krull (Superior) responded to a complaint of a house getting shot in the South Superior area. City police officers located a parked vehicle in the direction of where the shots were reported coming from. An un-armed hunter emerged from the woods, telling officers that he had sent his jammed rifle with friend's hours previous to the call. It was determined that the hunter was a convicted felon. His rifle along with several spent cartridges, were located by Krull in a tent blind a short distance away.

On opening morning of the gun deer season, Warden Robert Stroess (Manitowoc) and Regional Warden Byron Goetsch (Green Bay) contacted a group of hunters on private property in Manitowoc County. One of the hunters was a convicted felon and had been hunting with a firearm for years, even though it was illegal for a felon to possess a firearm. He was arrested.

Warden Jason Higgins (Oshkosh) issued three group deer hunting citations to a felon who registered deer during the gun deer season. The subject stated he did not possess a gun and did not shoot the deer. All participants involved in group deer hunting must be licensed and possess a firearm.

Warden Kyle Kosin (Fond du Lac) received information about a possible illegal bait near Waucosta. Kosin got the GPS coordinates and found the bait on the last day of the season in the morning. Kosin and Warden Mike Disher checked the bait at 4 p.m. on the last day of the season and found an individual in the enclosed stand. The individual was wearing camouflaged (non blaze orange) clothing, did not possess carcass tags, was hunting over approximately 20 gallons of bait, and was also using an illegal feeding device. Upon contact and investigation it was found that the individual was a felony offender.

Warden Dave Oginski (Wausaukee) and Intern Walloch received information from Wildlife Biologist Halfmann stating that two hunters and registered a doe from 51A on Saturday and Sunday. The hunters registered the deer in Pembine and would have driven past another registration station. Upon investigation it was found that one of the hunters was a convicted felon. Oginski spoke with the felon and it was determined that there was a group hunting violation. The felon stated that the deer were shot in 51A. Oginski then assisted Marinette County Sheriff's Department with a suicidal subject that lived close to the convicted felon. Through casual conversation with the subject's husband he stated that a friend of his neighbor (the felon) came over and was bragging about shooting two does behind the felon's house. Oginski eventually learned the truth about the deer. The other hunter was located, hunting behind the felon's house attempting to bag a buck. Both deer were seized and enforcement action was taken.

Warden Dave Oginski (Wausaukee) observed a vehicle traveling at a slow speed road hunting. Investigation revealed the driver had a Class A Disabled Permit and had a loaded firearm in the front seat in a partially opened case. Another firearm was in the back of the truck. The driver was found to be a convicted felon. The driver was cited for transporting a loaded firearm and was arrested by the Marinette County Sheriff's Department and both firearms were seized.

Warden Matt Meade (Crivitz) and Warden Joe Paul (Lakewood) contacted a hunter who was deer hunting in the township of Stephenson. The man was carrying a gun and was a felon. The hunter was arrested and the firearm was seized. Evidence was turned over and charges are pending.

On opening day, Warden Jeff Knorr (Fremont) and Deputy Warden Sam Schroeder contacted a lone 12-year-old hunter near a residence. Knorr asked the hunter where his adult supervision was as no one else

was seen in the area. The hunter stated his father was hunting in a nearby wooded area. Knorr later made contact with the adult hunter who was in blaze orange hunting clothing and carrying a loaded rifle. The adult was found wearing a back tag from 2006 that belonged to another family member. Investigation revealed the subject had no valid deer gun license and was a convicted felon.

Warden Mike Clutter received a hotline complaint reporting a felon gun deer hunting in the Plymouth area. Warden Clutter confirmed felony status and located the hunter.

Warden Kyle Drake (Waukesha) and Adam Hanna (Neillsville) had information about a convicted felon from southeast Wisconsin hunting somewhere in the 133,000-acre Clark County Forest. With thousands of people coming to Clark County for the deer season, it was very unlikely that the wardens would stumble into this particular felon hunter. The very first contact the wardens had on opening day turned out to be this felon's son. The felon hunter was only 100 yards away in a tree stand with a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

Wardens Robin Barnhardt (Osseo) and Shaun Deeney (Recruit Warden) contacted a deer hunter in Jackson County whom they learned was a convicted felon. Upon contact, the hunter had attempted to conceal a rifle underneath the carpet flooring in his ground blind. Enforcement action was taken.

Wardens Eric Grudzinski (Mauston) and Matt Weber (Necedah) were investigating a poaching case involving three men in the Necedah area. On Friday before the gun season, the wardens executed a search warrant on the suspect's house and recovered an illegal 8 point buck. The suspect was a convicted felon and two rifles were located in the suspect's vehicle. On Sunday November 28, 2010 Wardens Grudzinski, Weber and Mark Little (Tomah) determined that the suspect was in the Tomah area and set up surveillance. The wardens apprehended the suspect and Wisconsin State Patrol troopers arrested his companion for possession of drugs.

Warden Ben Herzfeldt (Wausau) and Regional Warden Mark Burmesch (Eau Claire) investigated a complaint of a felon hunting without a license over bait. The wardens contacted the hunter while in an elevated stand wearing blaze orange and ordered him out of the stand believing he was the only person in the stand. On the ground, Herzfeldt patted the subject down and asked where the gun was. The hunter stated there was a rifle in the stand but that his female companion was also in the stand and that she was hunting. The wardens found that the female was hunting with a .300 Win Magnum rifle that she admittedly only partially knew how to operate. The felon did admit to placing bait.

Wardens Mike Cross (Prairie du Chien) and Mitch Groenier (Delafield) contacted a hunter in a box blind who was illegally baiting deer with corn. The investigation revealed the hunter was a convicted felon and had illegally baited 3 tree stands with corn. A third violation of hunting turkeys without a valid permit was also discovered. The Crawford County Sheriff's Department arrested the hunter and seized a total of 6 firearms the hunter's cabin. Enforcement action was taken.

### **INTOXICATED SUBJECTS REMOVED FROM THE HUNTING ENVIRONMENT**

Note: a .08 blood alcohol concentration is presumed impaired

Recruit Warden Shaun Tyznik and Warden Tyler Strelow (Dane County) contacted late hunters on November 21, near Deerfield. Wardens located gun deer hunters in stands along the Glacial Drumlin State Trail. Wardens made contact with three hunters walking down the trail just after hunting hours. The wardens detected a strong odor of an intoxicant on one of the hunter's breath. Field sobriety tests indicated impairment and the hunter was arrested for going armed while intoxicated.

Racine County Warden Juan Gomez and Deputy Warden Michael Katzenberg observed a deer hunter hunting by himself. Gomez detected a strong odor of an intoxicant. The subject stated he had a couple of beers with his lunch. The subject became uncooperative and did not want to answer Gomez's question. Through investigation it was found the hunter was intoxicated and was in possession of marijuana and a small pipe. The individual was arrested in Walworth County for going armed while intoxicated. The hunter's preliminary breath test showed 0.292 blood alcohol content. Charges are pending.

Wardens Ted Dremel (Waupaca) and Roy Kubisiak (LE Bureau) were patrolling in the Iola area one day about mid-morning, when they observed a hunter lying on the ground about 75 feet from the road's center. Kubisiak approached the hunter to determine if he was alright and was tapping him on the shoulder. Initially the hunter did not respond to Kubisiak's voice or physical contact. When the hunter awoke, it was found the hunter was intoxicated and was in possession of a loaded 12 gauge shotgun. The hunter provided a sample of his breath and was determined to have a 0.136 blood alcohol content. The hunter was arrested for going armed while intoxicated and transported for further blood alcohol testing.

While driving down the road near Egg Harbor, Warden Mike Neal (Sister Bay) observed a deer crossing the road. After Neal observed the deer walk into a field he heard a single shot. Neal then contacted a hunter who was hunting in a box blind to check the hunter's license. When Neal contacted the hunter it was determined that the hunter was legally intoxicated.

### **ENFORCEMENT CASES REPRESENTATIVE OF DEER SEASON ARRESTS**

Warden Brad Dahlquist (Crandon) observed a vehicle traveling down a public road that was surrounded by public hunting land suspected of road hunting. Dahlquist discovered an uncased loaded rifle positioned between the driver and passenger of the vehicle. Both occupants were found to be in possession of marijuana. Citations were issued and charges included possession of THC, operating a vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance, and bail jumping. Dahlquist issued other citations for transporting loaded/uncased firearms in vehicles.

Warden Jim Jung (Rhineland) and Warden Supervisor Tom Wrasse (Woodruff) received information about a property owner who watched a person shoot and kill a deer from a vehicle. The suspects left the area as the landowner went to call the sheriff. Eventually the property owner and suspects met each other again on the town road as one suspect was dragging an untagged antlerless deer (buck only unit) from the field and his friend was waiting in the suspect vehicle. With law enforcement on their way to the scene, the property owner told the suspect seated in his vehicle to turn the ignition off and then told the suspect dragging the deer to go sit in his (property owner's) truck. Both suspects complied and waited for a deputy to arrive who gathered all of the necessary information.

Warden John Windt (Hurley) was working late when he heard several rifle shots after the legal shooting hours. Windt moved in the direction of the shots and observed a light in the hardwoods. Windt entered the area and found two individuals coming out of the woods walking towards their trailer. Windt made contact and during the course of the investigation determined that the shooter was a Native American and was hunting on private property illegally. Charges will be filed on the Native American and his non-tribal companion.

Warden Tim Price (Eagle River) and Deputy Warden John Preuss heard approximately 7 shots just as the season opened one morning. Two hunters were found in the process of field dressing three bucks. One of the two hunters started running towards a cabin as the wardens approached. The investigation revealed the two hunters shot three bucks over two illegal bait piles. Citations were issued to both hunters for hunting over illegal bait and borrowing another's tag.

Wardens Rich Thole (Boulder Junction) and Vanessa Thompson (Milwaukee) contacted a hunter on state property hunting over too much bait. The hunter placed the illegal bait a week before deer season and then placed his tree stand on the property Friday before deer season. The wardens cited the subject for both violations. Thole had cited the same subject two years ago in the same location hunting over too much bait and warned him for his illegal tree stand.

Warden Nick Nice (Medford) arrested an individual who had harvested two deer and had not purchased a valid gun deer license.

Warden Ron Nerva (Tomahawk) and Warden Supervisor Casey Krueger (Tomahawk) investigated a possible night hunting cabin shooting incident. A dead deer had been tracked by an adjoining land owner to the back of a neighbor's house. The investigation revealed he had shot the deer on the Wednesday night prior to deer season with his bow from the back of the house after using a yard light illuminating a corn pile.

Wardens Ron Nerva (Tomahawk), Rick Peters (Merrill) and Deputy Warden Kelly Moermond contacted a man staying in a camper trailer that was equipped with a spotlight that was run by a battery. There was an Aqua View camera that monitored a nearby bait pile. The light was left on all night for the week of deer season. A crossbow and .22 rifle were found in the camper. The subject was cited for shining wild animals, shining while in possession of a crossbow and firearm, and a baiting violation.

Warden Rick Peters (Merrill) and GLIFWC Warden Jonas Moermond assisted Lincoln County deputies at a trespassing complaint near Tomahawk. One party told the wardens that he lived "back and forth" between Wisconsin and Texas. He was found to have a resident hunting license, but acknowledged that he received mail and pays taxes in Texas and considered that his residence.

On the Wednesday preceding the opening weekend of deer season, Warden Tim Otto (Antigo) received a Hotline regarding a person that may have shot a deer with a rifle. Otto investigated the complaint and seized a 9-point buck. The suspect had gone to sit in his stand "just to see what would come out." When the trophy buck appeared, he shot the deer. The deer was shot with a rifle during the closed season, had not been tagged, and the hunter did not have a license.

On the opening weekend of deer season, Wardens Tim Otto (Antigo) and Rick Peters (Merrill) received a complaint regarding a person shooting an antlerless deer in a unit that did not have any antlerless permits available. As a result of the investigation, an untagged doe was seized from three hunters. The deer had been shot on the opening day and was kept behind their cabin until the wardens arrived.

Wardens Jeremy Peery (Ladysmith), Kendall Frederick (Madison), and Kirk Konichak (Warden Recruit) were contacted by Flambeau River State Forest (FRSF) Ranger Dave Schultz about a vehicle that Schultz had stopped in the FRSF. The occupants of the vehicle had discarded four deer carcasses in the FRSF. An adult male and a 14 year old female from Wyoming were hunting with the male subject's two sons who were from Wisconsin. The Wyoming subjects did not have Wisconsin gun deer hunting licenses, but had harvested three yearling bucks on property in Rusk County. One of the sons had also harvested a six point buck. None of the deer were ever tagged or registered. The father and sons discarded the remains in camping area on the FRSF. Several citations were issued to all subjects involved.

Warden Jason Bayer (Phillips) and Deputy Warden Bryan Vergin investigated a subject who purchased gun deer, archery, small game and fishing licenses during a period of DNR license revocation. Wardens located the subject at a residence in Park Falls and determined the subject had hunted and fished on

numerous occasions during 2010 and harvested a buck during the 2010 archery season. Wardens seized the buck antlers, compound bow and fishing pole related to hunt/ fish during DNR license revocation citations. Wardens are also submitting a referral to the Price County District Attorney on criminal charges of purchasing hunting and fishing licenses during period of DNR license revocation.

Warden Jason Bayer (Phillips) and Deputy Warden Bryan Vergin contacted two subjects sitting in a parked vehicle. Bayer detected a strong odor of marijuana inside the vehicle. Two marijuana pipes and a small amount of marijuana were located in the vehicle. Bayer arrested one of the hunters for possession of controlled substance and drug paraphernalia. Wardens further determined they were illegally baiting.

Warden Jesse Ashton (Luck) and Deputy Warden Tamara Larson were working a deer decoy in an area where a deer had been shot off the road earlier that day. The wardens had a subject pull up to the decoy and shoot it with a 30/30 rifle from the driver's side window. Wardens located two additional passengers with uncased loaded rifles and shotguns, neither of which had a deer hunting license. The subject in the front passenger seat was found to have a borrowed back tag and provided a fake name to hide the fact that he had 4 warrants out for his arrest. Numerous citations were issued to the parties and the subject with the warrants was taken to jail and will be charged with obstructing a warden.

Warden Jesse Ashton (Luck) and Warden Chris Spaight (Grantsburg) responded to a complaint of a buck that was shot on Thanksgiving evening from a vehicle in western Polk County and left in a field on private land. The suspects drove by the deer several times but did not attempt to pick the deer up. Ashton had cited the same subject for an uncased firearm in a vehicle on opening day of the deer season. Ashton went to the suspect's house and issued him three citations for shooting from a vehicle, hunting within 50 feet of the roads center and failure to make a reasonable effort to retrieve down game.

Warden Phil Dorn (Cumberland) received a complaint regarding two subjects who were hunting and shooting from a roadway. The two subjects were contacted and issued citations for the offense. Two days later Dorn received another complaint from the property owner of two more subjects who had shot from the roadway at deer. Dorn discovered that the second two subjects were the brothers of one of the subjects from the road hunting incident that had occurred at the same location two days prior. The second subjects also received citations for the violations.

Warden Mike Neal (Sister Bay) contacted a hunter who was hunting from a blind on private property over too much bait. After advising the individual that he would be receiving a citation for an illegal bait, Neal left the property. Neal then located another stand on county-owned land next to the private property that also had a stand that contained too much bait. Upon checking the stand the next morning Neal contacted the same hunter that Neal had cited the day before hunting over the illegal bait on private property who was now hunting over illegal bait on the county property.

Warden Mike Neal (Sister Bay) investigated a Hotline complaint on Washington Island involving a deer being shot from the roadway. Upon investigating the complaint, it was found that the suspect had shot deer while standing on the road in 2007, two in 2009 and another incident in 2010. Six citations were issued as a result of this investigation.

On opening morning of the gun-deer season, Warden Robert Stroess (Manitowoc) and Regional Warden Byron Goetsch (Green Bay) were checking a property near Menchalville in Manitowoc County. The wardens found two hunters in stands, one of them was wearing a 2008 back tag which had been altered in an apparent attempt to make it look like a current year back tag. The hunter was in his 20's but the back tag was for a person over 70 years old. The investigation revealed the 23-year-old hunter had been hunting deer without a license since age 17 or 18, had never completed hunter education, shot a deer in

2008 and had his grandfather tag the deer, and had been borrowing his grandfather's licenses for years with knowledge of the grandfather.

Wardens Mike Stahl (Oconto Falls) and Bob Goerlinger (Peshtigo) observed a vehicle parked behind a pole building where Stahl had received a number of complaints that illegal deer were being stored in the shed. Wardens waited for the hunter who came out of the field in a vehicle well after hours. Investigation revealed that he had been hunting deer but did not have any unused carcass tags. Wardens asked who he was hunting with, and he said he would call his brother if he needed a tag. The subject had an untagged doe on the floor of the shed and another buck hanging that did appear to not be tagged properly. The investigation continued into Saturday when the other three hunters in the camp were contacted and a number of violations were detected.

Warden Bryan Lockman (New London) observed two hunters hauling a deer to their residence in a wheel barrow. When contacted the deer was not tagged, one citation issued.

Wardens Dave Algrem (Wautoma) and Roy Zellmer (Madison) contacted two men at their hunting cabin at the end of a dead end road in Waushara County. Wardens registered a buck shot by the younger of the two men. The wardens noted that one of the 3 vehicles parked in the yard had Arizona license plates. Arizona records were not immediately available during the contact so wardens left the area. About one hour later, dispatcher made contact with Arizona and found the younger man who had a resident deer gun license was actually the Arizona resident. He had been purchasing resident deer gun licenses for a few years. Wardens cited the Arizona hunter.

Warden Nate Ackerman (Green Lake) contacted a subject hunting over more than 5 gallons of corn. The hunter also had placed carrots, melons, and had a gravity feeder with more than 5 gallons of corn as well. The hunter was hunting with his mom's back tag, and had not bought a license.

Warden Michael Young (Shiocton) and Deputy Warden Bill Fehrman received a phone call from a hunter who had shot a bear while on a deer drive. Investigation revealed the shooter's 11-year-old and 9-year-old sisters were helping to drive. The bear came out of the tall corn and was heading toward his sisters when he shot. The bear then turned and came towards the hunter and he shot a second time. The hunter was afraid the bear was going to attack his sisters. Shell casings, blood trail, and other physical corroborated the events. No citation was issued and the bear was seized.

Warden Supervisor Jennifer Niemeyer observed some hunters picking up their goose decoys in a field in Bristol Township. While pulling into the field, Niemeyer observed an uncased gun being placed in the cab of the truck. Through investigation it was found one of the individuals goose hunting was from Florida and did not have a license to hunt geese in Wisconsin.

Warden Randy Dunkel and Warden Supervisor Jennifer Niemeyer were working in Brighton Township in Kenosha County. A bow hunter was observed coming out of the woods at 5:30 PM dressed in full camouflage clothing except for a hat he had turned inside out into blaze orange. Upon contact the individual stated he and his companion were bow hunting on the property and no one was gun hunting so he did not wear blaze orange. The individual was cited for no blaze orange.

Warden Supervisor Jen Niemeyer observed an individual hunting in full camouflage clothing on State Lands. The individual stated he did not think he needed to wear blaze orange while bow hunting in a bow only area. The individual was cited for not wearing blaze orange.

Warden Jason Roberts and Southeast Regional Warden Kevin Mickelberg checked on a trapping complaint at the Turtle Valley Wildlife area. Roberts and Mickelberg found that several traps set along the marsh had been frozen in the water and several had partially eaten muskrats on the ice surface. The 60 set trap line had last been checked 9 days earlier. Roberts issued the suspect a citation for failing to check his trap line and ordered the suspect to clear his line.

Warden Kyle Drake cited an individual for hunting after hours on private property 15 minutes after close. It was completely dark at the time of contact.

Warden Matthew Groppi and Warden Supervisor Joe Jerich found that an archery hunter had killed two bucks. The hunter contacted a companion to drive from Milwaukee and tag the buck. Groppi checked the property the next day and found the hunter was hunting over an illegal bait pile.

Warden Robert Lee responded to a call of hunters trespassing. The hunters were located. One hunter was charged with failing to display a back tag while deer hunting. Another hunter was charged with shooting a hen turkey out of season, hunting turkey without a license and with shooting a turkey by means other than a shotgun or bow (.22 rifle).

Warden Mark Pearce contacted two subjects 90 minutes after closing who were loading an untagged antlerless deer into a vehicle. The subjects were concealing the deer under a blanket. The hunters had no blaze orange clothing or back-tags. They also did not have a unit specific Antlerless Deer Tag for the doe. In addition, an uncased muzzleloader was laying on the backseat of the car.

Warden Cody Adams (Chippewa Falls) and Deputy Warden Aaron Bembnister, received a turkey hunting complaint on the opening day of the gun deer season. A father and his 10 year old son were out sitting in their elevated tree stand waiting for a chance at a buck. The father then noticed a group of men making a deer drive through the property. The men did not have permission to be on that side of the fence. One of the deer drivers spotted a turkey and illegally harvested it. The father happened to see the hunter's back tag and he later said that sang the "back tag song" a million times in his head so he would not forget the backtag number. Wardens identified the hunter from the backtag number and enforcement action was taken.

A buck was stolen from a deer camp near Holcombe on Thanksgiving Day. Wardens Scott Bowe (Cornell) and Kyle Dilley (Recruit Warden) were given a photograph of the buck. It had nine points and a 19 ½ inch spread. The day after deer season, Wardens received information about a suspect and they discovered the buck in the back of his truck. The rack and meat were returned to the hunter. Enforcement action was taken.

Wardens Michael Hirschboeck (Sturtevant) and Dale Hochhausen (Stoddard) received a complaint regarding a deer that was taken from a hunter who lawfully shot a deer which was still able to run out of the woods, and then died in the middle of a paved roadway. Before the hunter could get to the deer, a truck showed up at the location and the driver said the deer was his. The driver said he was going to put his tag on the deer and keep it. The hunter didn't want to get in a confrontation, so noted the license plate number, left the area and called the sheriff's department. The wardens were able to track down the driver of the vehicle and then returned the deer to the hunter the following morning. The hunter stated he never thought he would get his deer back. Enforcement action was taken.

Just before midnight on the Thursday night before the gun deer season, Warden Ben Herzfeldt (Wausau) stopped a vehicle for shining after 10:00 PM. Herzfeldt found the subject had a loaded 30.06 rifle in the vehicle. Herzfeldt seized a spotlight, rifle, ammunition along with marijuana and drug paraphernalia. As

the investigation continued into Friday, it revealed that the subject had shined and shot at or killed five deer in the previous week, including a buck that was left lay on a field and another buck that was seized at the subject's residence. The subject stated that he just liked "killing stuff." Enforcement action was taken.

On the Friday before deer season, Warden Paul Sickman (Hudson) was called to assist St. Croix deputies in an investigation where two men left a local bar with two women and started fighting. Upon attempting to locate the suspects, an outbuilding was searched and two untagged deer were found that were taken with firearms before the season. Enforcement action is pending.

Wardens Kyle Dilley (Recruit Warden) and Scott Bowe (Cornell) observed a subject who was dressed in blaze orange with a rifle in his hand. The subject told Bowe that he was simply watching for deer from a deer drive and was not hunting. When Bowe inquired about the rifle that was in his hands moments earlier, the man said his uncle had brought it there and laid it next to the road. The man said he was only looking at the gun and wasn't really hunting. The fresh snow told a different story. The man had participated in several deer drives that day, including the one he was a back stander on when contacted. Enforcement action was taken.

Wardens Wade Romberg (Friendship) and William Miller (Adams) contacted two hunters that had two untagged antlerless deer. It was also found that one of the hunters did not have a gun deer license. The hunter that shot the antlerless deer did not have tags for the deer as it was in a non herd control unit and he had not purchased any antlerless tags.

Wardens Matt Weber (Necedah), Eric Grudzinski (Mauston), and Intern Mike Weber contacted two hunters carrying loaded guns. One hunter was dressed in blaze orange clothing and displaying a back tag. The other hunter was wearing a red vest, black hat and no back tag. The hunter with the red vest did not have a deer gun license.

Warden Barry Meister (Stevens Point) and Deputy Warden Jared Tessman contacted a hunter on opening day in response to a Hotline call alleging a baiting violation. What the wardens found was a large amount of assorted bait, a dead six point buck, and a hunter who did not have a deer hunting license. The individual stated he did not decide to go deer hunting until the last minute and did not then have time to purchase a license.

Warden Mike Rader (Wausau) and Intern Kyle Lynch contacted three subjects hunting out of elevated blinds on private property opening weekend. One subject was found to be wearing blaze orange and possessing a loaded rifle, deer cleaning gear, and an unused 2008 carcass tag. The subject was not wearing a backtag and had not bought a gun deer license. The subject stated he had not seen any deer in 2009 and therefore did not purchase a gun deer license for 2010.

Warden Bob Jumbeck (Alma) and Deputy Warden Julie Modjeski contacted a group of hunters hauling a doe on an ATV. The doe was found untagged. Further investigation found two more untagged deer (bucks) hanging in the garage at camp.

Prior to the gun deer season, Wardens Kyle Dilley (Recruit Warden) and Scott Bowe (Cornell) had received a complaint of a subject road hunting north of Stanley. On the Sunday of opening weekend, wardens worked with the deer decoy in the complaint area. Just when the wardens thought traffic would start to slow down with the Packer game beginning, a subject drove by slowly, stopped, and shot the deer decoy from the driver's seat of his pickup truck. Bowe contacted the subject who was found to be the same very suspect from the complaint.



Warden Scott Thiede (Eau Claire) responded to the tearful call from a 13-year-old girl hunting with her father in an enclosed stand along a field. Her dad had left to obtain the license plate of a pickup truck from which the driver had shot from the roadway, killing an antlerless deer on the field very close to the girl's hunting stand. The girl was hoping to get an opportunity at that deer. The responsible parties were identified and enforcement action was taken.

Warden Mike Cross (Prairie du Chien) and Recreational Safety Warden Jon King (Fitchburg) responded to a 911 call regarding shooting from a vehicle. The wardens eventually located the vehicle which had an 8 point buck in the bed. The investigation revealed the shooter had a valid Class B disabled hunting permit. However, when the deer was shot, the hunter was not legally parked on the roadway, his vehicle was not properly identified (as a disabled hunter), the firearm was uncased in a moving vehicle, and the deer was killed on private land without the permission of the landowner.

Warden Paul Leezer (Wausau) investigated a complaint of a deer shot from a vehicle. Upon arrival, the suspect vehicle was parked on the road and two subjects were tracking the deer through nearby woods. The subjects stated that a third party had shot at a deer earlier from the road, but he was at wrestling practice, so they were tracking the deer for him. During the investigation, it was discovered that one of the hunters also shot a ruffed grouse with a .22 rifle, and the other hunter had three illegal baits in the woods. Leezer contacted the shooter later that night, who admitted that he shot at the deer with a 30-30 rifle and then left the loaded rifle in the vehicle.

Regional Warden Mark Burmesch (Eau Claire) and Warden Dale Hochhausen (Stoddard) were driving behind a slow moving truck that was traveling through a wooded area. When the vehicle got to the open fields on top of the ridge, the driver traveled at a much faster speed. A short time later, the wardens contacted the vehicle at their cabin. The driver first stated there were no firearms in the vehicle. Upon checking the vehicle, a loaded and uncased rifle was located in the front passenger seat. Not so surprisingly, the vehicle matched the same exact description of a vehicle that shot from the road two years earlier in the same area.

Warden Jim Cleven (Colfax) and Deputy Warden Gary Schwach responded to a **text** message Hotline complaint stating a convicted felon was hunting without a deer license, in a remote area where he had a hunting shack. The suspect returned to the shack without a firearm and claimed he was not hunting, and that he did not have a firearm. The wardens found an untagged skinned deer, with the back straps removed in a small shed next to the hunting shack. Eventually the suspect admitted that he had shot the deer, and hid his rifle in the woods. The suspect led the wardens to his rifle that he had hidden under a fallen tree.

Warden Nathan Kroeplin was working with Warden Dave Wood in Dane County on the opening evening of the gun deer season. Kroeplin and Wood observed two hunters hunting 18 minutes past the legal hunting hours. One of the hunters was also dressed entirely in camouflage clothing, except for his blaze orange hat. The hunter stated he forgot his orange coat at home but decided to go hunting anyway.

Wardens David Youngquist and Nathan Kroeplin found three hunters in the woods that were bringing two untagged doe out of the woods that were shot two hours earlier. One of the hunters had his loaded rifle on the back of the pick-up truck and another hunter had his uncased rifle in the backseat of the same pick-up. Three citations were issued, one for the loaded gun, one for the uncased gun and one for the two untagged doe that were brought out two hours after they were shot and untagged.

Recruit Warden Benjamin Mott and Warden Michael Dieckhoff (Janesville) checked a group of deer hunters walking out of the woods to their vehicles. Dieckhoff recognized one individual from the wildlife violator compact revocation list. Dieckhoff found that the individual had a disorderly conduct warrant from Beloit Police Department. The individual was detained and turned over to a City of Beloit police officer.

Wardens Joe Frost (Dodgeville) and Regional Warden Kevin Mickelberg (Milwaukee) checked a hunting camp with an untagged deer lying in camp. The buck had been shot that morning by one hunter in the group, but the only person in the group with a buck tag was in the shack ¼ mile away. The buck was field dressed and dragged out to the camp without a tag. The deer was seized and a citation issued.

Wardens Joe Frost (Dodgeville) and Tom Van Haren (Madison) observed a group with an uncased rifle in a UTV. A loaded gun and an uncased gun were found in a truck. The group also had field-dressed a doe and left it untagged as they looked for another deer. Two out-of-state hunters were also found to have purchased resident gun and archery licenses.

Wardens Jeff King (Darlington) and Jon King checked a hunting camp near Lamont. Wardens first saw an untagged deer in the bed of a truck near the cabin and made contact with a man at the cabin. He invited the wardens in and then lunged at something on the counter and put it in his pocket. It turns out the man was in possession of marijuana and Drug Paraphernalia. The drugs and pipe were turned over to the sheriff's department.

Recruit Warden Shaun Tyznik and Warden Tyler Strelow (Dane County) watched a hunter enter a stand approximately 60 yards from a gravity style feeder. Wardens contacted the hunter and found the hunter to not have a Gun Deer License. Strelow located the property owner and recovered another feeder and bait. Both hunters received multiple citations for gun hunting without license and party to, archery hunting without a license (2009), baiting and feeding, purchase improper license, loan borrow tag, and blaze orange requirement violation.

Warden Mike Nice (Richland Center) and Deputy Warden Mike Williams contacted a non-resident who purchased a resident gun deer license for the past several years. Two other non-residents were found hunting the same property without having purchased any gun deer license and admitting to doing it in the past. Two untagged bucks were recovered without anyone having had shot antlerless deer first as required in the CWD EAB units. The hunters returned to camp driving ATV's with loaded and uncased firearms.

Warden Boyd Richter (Janesville) and Deputy Warden Cody Kanable were investigating a deer farm escape near Brodhead on Monday of the gun deer season when they located several conibear traps that did not appear to have been checked in several days. An opossum was found dead in one of the traps and had been there for several days. Wardens checked the traps several days in a row to see if they were being checked, and finally removed them. Richter issued one citation for failing to check traps and remove fur daily, warnings were given to the trapper for trapping too close to sight exposed bait and failing to have the trap operator's tags on the traps.

Warden Nick Webster (Monroe) was called by a Green County deputy who had stopped a vehicle at night for a minor equipment violation. The deputy observed an untagged deer in the vehicle and an investigation revealed that the deer had been harvested on land where the hunters did not have permission, so they had gone in after hunting hours closed to retrieve it.

Warden Boyd Richter (Janesville) and Deputy Warden Cody Kanable (Madison) investigated a complaint of a subject hunting in camouflage on Monday of the gun deer season. The hunter was observed hunting in a ladder stand on private property with no blaze orange on and no back tag displayed. The hunter said his father had told him to take his blaze orange off because the deer can see the solid color easier than the camouflage. Citations were issued for hunting without blaze orange during the gun deer season and failing to display a back tag while hunting deer.

Wardens John Buss (Sauk City) and Deputy Warden Travis Hilliard received a call on a trespassing case with a deer involved. A hunter shot a deer and it was on Badger Army Ordnance property. The suspect trespassed to get the deer and the deer was not tagged. Citations were issued.

Wardens Heather Gottschalk (Beaver Dam) and Douglas Zeihen (Waukesha) observed a waterfowl hunter in a field near the city of Beaver Dam while on their way to another complaint. Gottschalk dropped Zeihen off at that complaint with a Dodge County deputy and returned to the field just in time to talk to the hunter who was leaving. The hunter immediately exited the truck and stated that he had one too many geese. The hunter stated he knew it was wrong and he thought about calling the warden but didn't. The goose was seized and a citation issued.

Wardens Paul Nadolski (Poynette) and Bill Engfer responded to a Hotline complaint of hunters in the refuge at Mud Lake. Wardens found the subject driving a vehicle that had Illinois plates and the hunter had a resident back tag. Eventually it was determined that there were three people hunting in the closed refuge who failed to immediately validate and attach a carcass tag to a deer and two people had fraudulently obtained resident licenses.

### **REPRESENTATIVE CONFLICTS:**

Throughout the season, wardens assisted their respective sheriff's departments with trespass complaints involving hunters. In many cases, there were hunting violations involved. In Columbia County, wardens assisted Portage police officers in locating hunters on a number of properties that had recently been annexed into the city, and where discharge of firearms is prohibited.

One landowner related to wardens what hunters on a neighboring farm are doing to disrupt his hunt. He alleges that the neighbors trespass on his land in the dark the night before opening day to conduct a deer drive to push the deer out of his woods before dawn. Someone also deposited a rotting dead calf carcass below the landowner's tree stand two days before the season.

On the last evening of the nine day gun deer season, Warden Dale Hochhausen (Stoddard) responded to a call from Vernon County Sheriff's Department to assist a deputy dealing with a group of deer hunters that had been hunting on state property. One of the members of the deer hunting party had shot a buck, which ran onto private property and the landowner observed the individuals trespass to retrieve the deer. The landowner stated he would have let the individuals retrieve their deer legally, if they just would have asked.

Warden Ben Herzfeldt (Wausau) and a deputy met with a hunter who realized, once it got light, that there was a large pile of corn under her stand. Herzfeldt learned that there was a family/neighboring property owner feud going on due to a baiting complaint that he investigated about a month prior. They thought someone had placed the bait to get the neighbor in trouble though a case wasn't made.

Warden Ryan Ellifson (Jefferson) assisted Jefferson County Sheriff Department with a case involving a 17 year old hunter. A landowner thought the young hunter was trespassing and began hollering

obscurities at the boy. The suspect told the boy to come over to him and then allegedly pushed and kicked the boy before tearing the boy's back tag from his jacket. The suspect refused to return the back tag to the boy when his father arrived. The suspect did admit to taking the boy's back tag to prevent him from hunting and trespassing on his property again. When asked where the back tag was, the suspect stated he threw it out in the field when he was driving back to his residence. The investigation is on going.

Warden Jeff King (Darlington) received two complaints on opening day from an area hunter reporting his neighbors were intentionally harassing him by lighting off firecrackers as they would drive by his property. King contacted the suspects and told them that if any further harassment of the neighborhood hunters occurred, he would be taking enforcement action.

Warden Heather Gottschalk (Beaver Dam) reports problems this year between hunters on state property. Once again a hunter called and stated he shot at a deer and by the time he got up to it someone else was putting their tag on it. However the hunter was unable to say that his shot was the killing shot. Later that same day the hunter's brother and nephew went out to the same state property. The same group that tagged the deer had returned to the property to conduct a drive. In doing so they set up between the 2 hunters. The hunter waved at the group to let them know they were there. The group began yelling obscenities at the man and using hand gestures. They left the area and contacted law enforcement.

Warden Matthew Groppi reports that there are several parcels of public land (federal and state land) located in the northern part of the county. One of the trends Groppi observed is that some groups would get together and drive these public parcels. These drives would involve as many as 15 people and they would walk past other hunters on the properties. Groppi received numerous complaints from the hunters who were not part of the drives that it disrupted their hunt and interfered with their hunting.

Warden Mark Pearce investigated complaint involving conflict between deer and waterfowl hunters. Apparently waterfowl hunter shooting activity impeded deer hunters set up near the waterfowl hunters.

Warden Mike Neal (Sister Bay) investigated a complaint where one hunter had located another hunter's tree stand in the area where the two hunters were hunting on land owned by the township. The one hunter then contacted the other hunter and told the hunter to remove the stand or he would remove it for him. When the other hunter arrived, that hunter discovered that the tree stand had been cut down and removed. After meeting with both hunters, they agreed that the situation had gotten out of hand and the stand was returned to the owner without incident.

In Kewaunee County, both Wardens David Allen (Green Bay) and Darren Kuhn (Kewaunee) received complaints about neighbors driving their vehicles back and forth across their own property, at prime hunting times, to keep deer from going onto the neighbor's property. Or because a neighbor places his hunting stand on the property boundary, the other neighbor assumes he's trespassing and shooting "his" deer. The Kewaunee County Sheriff's Department and Kuhn were called out to one location several times during the gun-deer season, because of this neighbor conflict.

Wardens Tom Truman (Winneconne) and Jason Higgins (Oshkosh) responded to a call about two hunters arguing over who shot and killed a deer. When the first hunter arrived the second hunter advised that the second hunter killed the deer and was taking it. The first hunter disagreed and tagged the deer. The first hunter dragged the deer to the parking lot and went to assist another hunter drag out a deer. The mother to this hunter stayed with the deer. The second hunter returned and again tried to take the deer. The Sheriff's Department was called and the second hunter left the area.

Warden David Oginski (Wausaukee) was contacted by an individual who was attempting to canoe down a creek to access public land. The creek runs through the middle of private land on both sides. The owner of the land was upset because the hunter cut some branches to make access down the creek easier. The hunter was cited for criminal damage to property by the county. The landowner was still upset that the hunter was able to canoe down the river. The landowner then blocked access to the creek by parking a truck with a trailer in the right of way next to the culvert. The landowner did not want anyone disrupting up his hunting. The landowner was warned by Warden Oginski previously to not do anything that would interfere with lawful hunting.

Warden Mark Schraufnagel (Shawano) received several calls from upset hunters regarding neighboring hunters with smaller parcels of land hunting on the property line and shooting at deer on property they do not own.

Warden Mark Schraufnagel (Shawano) received a hunter harassment complaint regarding an adjoining property owner who drove to the edge of the property opening morning and beeped the car horn over a period of time. Schraufnagel interviewed the suspect and learned there was more to this conflict. The hunter making the harassment complaint had caught the neighbor's dog on the property earlier in the year and threatened to place rat poison in meat on his property to kill the dog. The upset neighbor was attempting to get even with the landowner for making the poisoning threat. Schraufnagel instructed the landowner to stop harassing the hunter and if the hunter made any poisoning threats in the future to contact the Sheriff's Department.

The vast majority of the conflicts that occur between hunters and hunters or hunters and non-hunters involve neighbors disagreeing over each others actions. A very common issue is hunting "too close to the line" with the distance of concern varying between incidents. Some involve hunting directly on the property line while others involve 100 yards. These conflicts often evolve into vandalism of stands, left of stands, placing illegal bait and calling the wardens.

Warden Michael Young (Shiocton) received a Hotline of hunter harassment and illegal tree stands on state property. Young was told the hunter and his mother were hunting near an unoccupied tree stand when the owner came and sat in the stand the hunter than yelled at the caller and stated this was his spot. Young contacted the hunter in the stand and issued a citation for leaving the stand up and discussed the use of public lands. The stand hunter left the stand up because he had no place else to hunt and wanted to save "his spot."

Warden John Krull (Superior) received several minor complaints about "ownership" issues on public property. "I've been hunting here for years, have bait on the ground and my stand was up first, therefore this area is mine, you stay out." One hunter was incredulous that the warden wouldn't be citing another hunter for harassment after the second hunter put up a stand about 150 yards away. The first hunter had read the harassment laws and firmly believed that the second hunter was "impeding or obstructing" his hunt by doing this.

Warden Brad Biser (Brule) was called to a hunters/neighboring landowner confrontation. A juvenile female shot a fawn-doe on Brule River State Forest property and it ran onto private land and died 50 feet into the private land. When the girl's father tracked the deer, the landowner confronted him while he was on public property. The female landowner became very vocal, protective of "her" deer, to the point the hunter called the sheriff's department out of fear of the landowner.

Warden Kelly Crotty (Florence) received a complaint from a hunter that a group had moved in on the area where he has hunted for approximately 20 years. This is reportedly the second year in a row that this

hunter has had his ground blind destroyed by an unknown party suspected to be the new group. The complainant advised Crotty that his blind was destroyed three times in the week before the opener. This happened on state owned land.

Wardens Kelly Crotty (Florence), Chris Shea (Recruit Warden) and Warden Supervisor Tom Wrasse (Woodruff) investigated a complaint of a hunter harassment issue where a subject was confronted and cursed out by the landowner who lives across the street. The hunter reported that the landowner yelled at him from the road using foul language and suggesting that his group shoots “Bambi” and leaves the deer lay in the woods. The suspect, stated that he was upset because the hunter was sitting a short distance across the road from his house facing his residence with his firearm. The landowner was encouraged to contact law enforcement if there was a problem in the future rather than handling the issue himself.

Warden Brad Dahlquist (Crandon) observed two vehicles parked along a public road on private property. These vehicles were spaced approximately 200 yards apart. Dahlquist noted two hunters were seated on the ground, in full blaze orange clothing, and appeared to be hunting on the private property. While walking toward one of the hunters, Dahlquist was contacted by a different hunter walking down a trail. This hunter, also the landowner, informed Dahlquist the two hunters were actually dummies placed to keep hunters from entering the private property. The landowner had placed four dummies around the property. A block of public property is located adjacent to the private land and the dummies were placed to keep people from trespassing. The landowner has had several hunters trespass on the private land to hunt deer.

Warden Brad Dahlquist (Crandon) did note conflicts with different hunting parties while hunting on public land. Some hunters complained of others moving in on “their” areas of public land that they have hunted for several years. Warden Dahlquist attributes these complaints to the decreasing public land that is being sold and privately bought, along with the use of baiting. Many hunters become territorial and establish “boundaries” on public land after placing an amount of bait to hunt over.

Warden Pat Novesky (Three Lakes) received calls of three different complaints of hunter harassment involving one hunter whose tree stand was shot up with a firearm and two others who were confronted and ordered to leave public lands by other hunters staking their claim to the area. In past years Warden Novesky has received similar complaints, all of them were conflicts of hunter vs. hunter.

Warden Nick Nice (Medford) investigated an incident where a landowner was driving her ATV and blowing an air horn along the property boundary. A hunter harassment investigation is currently underway.

Wardens Jeremy Peery (Ladysmith) and Kirk Konichuk (Warden Recruit) observed that an ATV had been removed from a trailer to access MFL property in Rusk County. The particular MFL property is closed to motor vehicle traffic. A hunting group, consisting of four hunters, was contacted approximately 1.5 miles into the MFL property. The driver of the ATV drove around a locked gate which had a large sign stating that motor vehicle traffic was prohibited. The ATV owner was told to remove the ATV from the property. A citation was issued for operating an ATV on private property without permission. The use of ATV's on MFL property closed to motor vehicle traffic is becoming a common violation in the area.

Warden Russ Fell (Rice Lake) was called by an irate hunter who felt that the pheasant season should be closed during the deer season. The caller just could not believe that we, The DNR, allow pheasant hunters to hunt with dogs on public land and scare all the deer away while he is trying to hunt. Fell explained the multiple use theory of public lands to the caller and told him to contact a legislator to sponsor a law change if he feels that strongly about it.

## **SYNOPSIS OF HUNTING ACCIDENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>	<b>Shooter</b>	<b>Victim</b>	<b>Firearm</b>
11/20	Wood	Shooter fired 3 times at running deer across an open field. After the third shot shooter heard someone yelling in the woodlot. Approximate distance from shooter to victim was 605 yards.	Male 15	Male 45	Rifle, Bolt Action .243 caliber
11/20	Marquette	Shooters both fired once at a moving deer across a marsh. Victim was posted on a ladder stand about 8 feet above ground.	Under investigation	Male 32	Rifle - semi-auto caliber - to be determined
11/20	Marathon	Shooter was stander in a deer drive. Victim was a driver. Shooter fired twice in the direction of the drivers then twice more as deer ran between standers. Distance between shooter and victim approximately 324 yards.	Male 12	Male 39	Rifle Lever action .30-30 caliber
11/20	Door	Shooter and victim were members of same deer drive. One driver and 3 standers. All 3 standers fired one time each at a running deer. All members of the deer drive could see each other.	Under Investigation	Male 29	Rifle - action and caliber to be determined
11/21	Douglas	Shooter and victim were members of the same deer drive. Shooter had killed a deer during the drive already. More deer were seen and shooter fired one time missing deer and striking victim approximately 100 yards away. Rolling terrain and shooter moved from assigned position.	Male 50	Male 32	Rifle semi-auto 30.06 caliber
11/22	Burnett	3 hunters were looking for a wounded deer. Deer jumped up in between the shooter and victim. Shooter and victim each fired one round. Shooters round struck a metal fence post. Fragments of the bullet and fence post struck the victim.	Male 60	Male 54	Rifle Lever Action .308 Caliber
11/23	Crawford	Victim was attempting to unload firearm when it slipped and went off striking the victim in the left hand. Victim was holding the firearm by the muzzle.	Female 40	Same	Rifle Bolt Action 30.06 caliber
11/24	Jackson	Victim was a non hunting companion seated in the same treestand as the shooter. Victim pointed out a deer coming down the	Male 20	Female 19	Rifle Bolt Action 7mm Mag

		trail. Shooter fired one round which grazed the thigh of the victim.			
11/24	Manitowoc	Victim was involved in a 5 person deer drive with victim as the only stander. Shooter fired at two different running deer. Victim had moved to a new location other than assigned.	Male 23	Male 52	Rifle Semi-Auto .243 caliber
11/25	Adams	Shooter was loading the firearm while it was partially in the case on the backseat of the truck. Then dropped a round. Shooter was laying the firearm on the seat when it discharged. Bullet went through the passenger seat striking victim.	Male 46	Male 21	Rifle Bolt Action 30.06
11/25	Marathon	Victim struck the handgun with his hand while it was in the holster. Gun discharged. Victim stated to witness that he had previously pointed handgun at a deer with hammer cocked earlier.	Male 52	Same	Handgun Revolver .357 mag
11/27	Oconto	Victim was a member of a deer drive. As he was walking in heavy cover his foot got stuck. As he fell forward the gun discharged.	Male 40	Same	Handgun Semi-Auto 9mm

## **HOUSES STRUCK BY BULLETS**

Warden Marty Stone (Fennimore) along with the Grant County Sheriff's Department investigated an incident which involved a stray rifle round entering a residence near Potosi and hitting a wall within 8 feet of where an individual was seated. The source of the round was traced to a hunter who fired 3 shots at a deer about a half mile from the home. The hunter was shooting at a running deer. The bullet went through several walls and came to rest in an interior room. The hunter was identified by Stone and Grant County sheriff's deputies. Stone will be referring the case to the Grant County District Attorney's Office.

Warden Heather Gottschalk (Beaver Dam) received a call about a home that was shot in a new subdivision that abuts a field on the edge of the City of Beaver Dam.

Warden Boyd Richter reports that two hunters in the Evansville area shot at deer with rifles while hunting on a federal waterfowl area. A bullet from one of the shooters traveled across a state highway and into the front of a house. The owner of the house heard a loud noise and initially thought the television had exploded. Rock County deputies made contact with the complainant, and then with five hunters nearby. They determined who fired the shot and seized two firearms and ammunition to compare to the bullet recovered in the house. Charges are pending.

Warden Nick Nice (Medford) was contacted by a hunter who had a rifle bullet go through his house.

Warden Robert Stroess (Mishicot) received a message on his office machine from a person reporting her garage was struck by a slug the previous afternoon but she didn't find it until Monday morning.



Warden Andy Lundin (Green Bay) responded to a complaint of a house hit by a shotgun slug in Brown County. The homeowner noticed a broken window on the side of his house and found a sabot .20 gauge shotgun slug stuck in the window between the first and second pane. The house was hit on Saturday, November 27, but not discovered until the following afternoon. A possible shooter was located on a neighboring property. The shooter stated he shot all 6 rounds from his Mossberg .20 gauge pump shotgun at some deer that ran out of the woods but did not remember shooting in the direction of the house. Lundin found the slug traveled at least 300 yards before striking the window. The damage was consistent with a bullet losing most of its velocity and tumbling. No injuries and the shooter agreed to pay for the damage and window replacement.

Warden Ted Dremel (Waupaca) received one report from the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department of a shotgun slug entering a house near the Waupaca/Waushara county line. No responsible party was found.

Warden Supervisor Joe Jerich and Warden Matthew Groppi investigated a complaint of house that was hit by a shotgun slug. The slug hit the window on the screen porch and shattered the glass. The wardens determined the slug came from the neighboring property and provided the landowners name for determining who had been hunting there at the time of the shot. The information was forwarded to the Washington County Sheriff's Department for follow-up. The sheriff's department reported two other incidents. (\*see attached photo)

In Pierce County, a home was struck by a shotgun slug. The slug did not penetrate through the wall after punching through the siding and outer wall. It appeared the slug travelled through a good amount of woods and brush before striking the home. Suspects fled the area and not located yet.

In St Croix County, a landowner returned home to find slug hole through the garage door and the slug was lodged in the lawn mower seat. No suspects.

In Chippewa County, a house was struck by a bullet on the last day of the season. No one was injured by the bullet. The Chippewa County Sheriff's Department investigated the complaint and could not determine where the bullet came from. The case is still under investigation.

In Vernon County, a woman came out of the shower and found a bullet hole through her bathroom wall. A neighboring hunting party was contacted, but due to heavy fog that day, was difficult to say with certainty that a member of the party was responsible.

END